

ER 10-8287/a

2 November 1958

STATINTL

Alfred

Ferdinand L. Mayer, Esquire
Bennington
Vermont

Dear Fred:

I appreciate your good letter of 22 October. I do not get too excited by occasional and sporadic attacks. They are to be expected and, on the whole, my relations with the press are pretty good.

I have not read Ransom's book but my people tell me that on the whole it is a reasonably good presentation although we do not by any means agree with it on all points. If I can scrape up an extra copy here I shall send it on to you and, if you get a chance to read it, I should be interested to have your views. Millis, in my view, has soured on almost everything and I felt that his review was unhelpful to say the least.

If you both go South this winter, why don't you plan to stop off in Washington so that we can have a good talk together? It has been much too long since we have seen you.

Sincerely,

Allen W. Dulles
Director

AWD/c

Distribution:

1 - DCI/

1 - ER via Reading - w/ basic

(Copy of Ransom's book to be forwarded under separate cover.)

A copy of "Central Intelligence and National Security" by Harry Howe Ransom was sent to Mr. Mayer on 4 November 1958.

AAB

10-8287

FERDINAND L. MAYER
BENNINGTON, VERMONT

October
22
1958

Personal

Dear Allen -

I suppose there is no use getting excited about criticism of the C.I.A. Probably by this time you are accustomed to take this in your stride. However, having been present at the inception of the discussion in O.S.S. with John Magruder promoting the establishment of a Central Intelligence Agency, I do get a bit hot under the collar at what seems to be misinformation in this regard.

I haven't read the book by Harry Howe Ransom on "Central Intelligence and National Security", and, frankly, I hate to spend \$4.75 for it. I am, however, tempted to do so just to see how closely it consorts with the review by Walter Millis in the New York Times Book Review of October 19.

Millis has never been my cup of tea although I know he has been quite a songbird at the Council. His review seems to me very slanted and misses the point generally. This is inevitable, no doubt, as far as the public is concerned. I should have thought, however, that a man who gets around as much as Walter Millis should understand better and discuss the situation with correspondingly more accurate phrasing.

I was particularly aroused by the statement in his concluding paragraph that, "One may suspect that in the non-combat situations which confront our policy today, Intelligence just cannot carry the burden popularly assigned to it. Etc., etc."

I don't see how Millis could be more completely wrong, do you?

Best regards

The Honorable
Allen W. Dulles

Washington, D.C.

Red